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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5-9 and 13-17 are allowed and claims 1-4 and 10-12 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Amendments to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification due to inconsistencies between the drawings and the specification. Applicant has amended the specification and drawings to correct the inconsistencies as briefly explained below and kindly request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The paragraph beginning on page 19, line 19 was amended to remove reference to element numerals 120, 103 and 122 due to the fact the sentence is referring to the embodiment shown in Figures 12-14 and element numerals 120, 103, and 122 refer to the embodiment shown in Figures 15-17.

The paragraph beginning on page 22, line 9 was amended to correctly reflect the element numbers given to the document in the two embodiments shown in Figures 18-23.

The paragraph beginning on page 26, line 19 was amended to remove reference to element numerals 439-440 that were not used in the drawings.

The paragraph beginning on page 27, line 7 was amended to remove reference to element numerals 441-442 that were not used in the drawings.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 10-12 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Patent Examiner stated in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office action of May 20, 2004 that claims 1-4 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended claim 1, line 16 to claim "a relationship", providing proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that claim 1 is in immediate condition for allowance and such action is kindly requested.

Applicant has amended claim 10, line 14 to claim "a relationship", providing proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that claim 10 is in immediate condition for allowance and such action is kindly requested.

Amendments to the Drawings

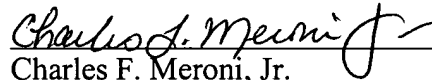
Figures 1, 4, 7-10, 12, 15, 21 and 30-31 were amended to correct inconsistencies between the specification and drawings.

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Amdt. Dated
Reply to Office action of May 20, 2004

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection. It is believed that this application is now in immediate condition for allowance, and such action is kindly requested. If, after a review of this Amendment, issues remain which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Patent Examiner is cordially invited to call the applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 20,109

Dated: July 20, 2004.

MERONI & MERONI, P.C.
P.O. Box 309
Barrington, ILLINOIS 60011

Telephone: (847) 304-1500
Facsimile: (847) 381-5478
Email: meronilaw@ameritech.net

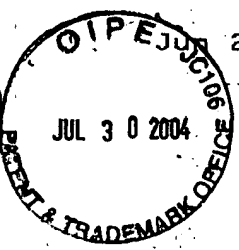


Fig. 1

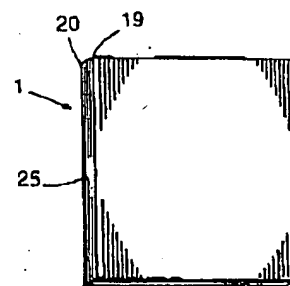
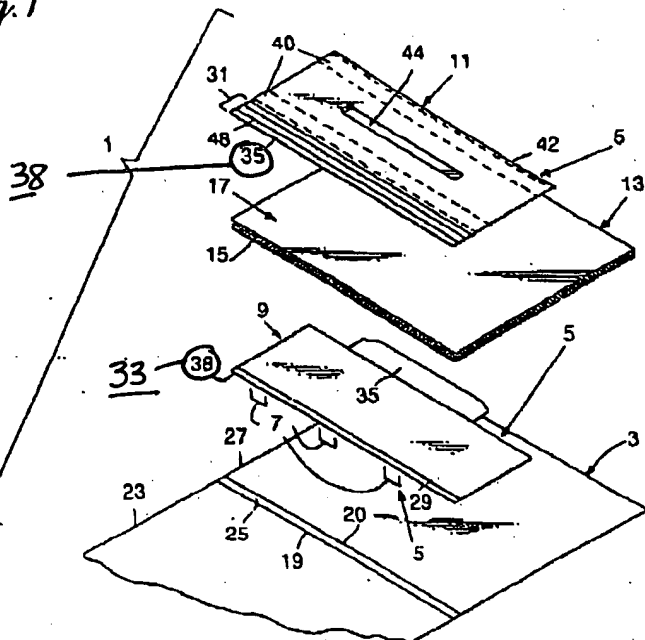


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

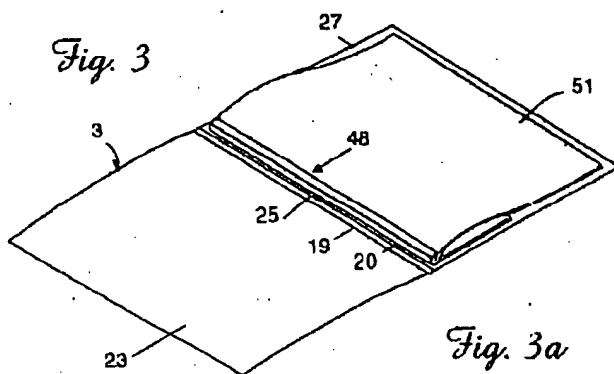
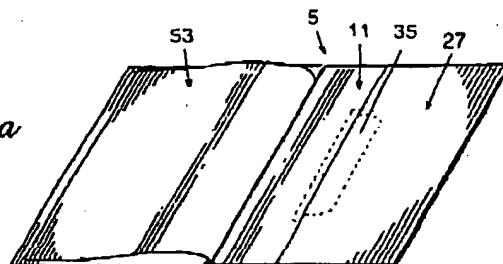


Fig. 3a



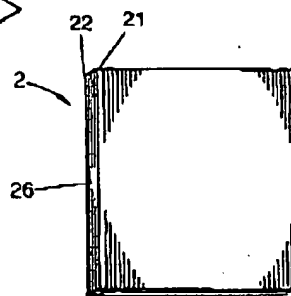
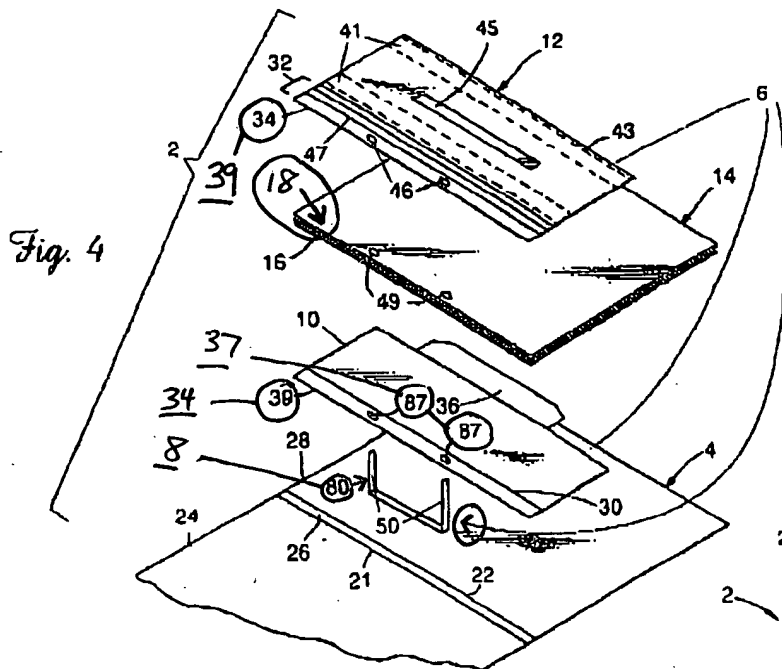


Fig. 5

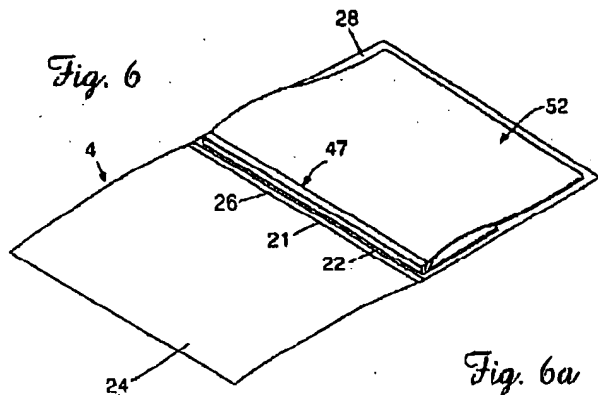
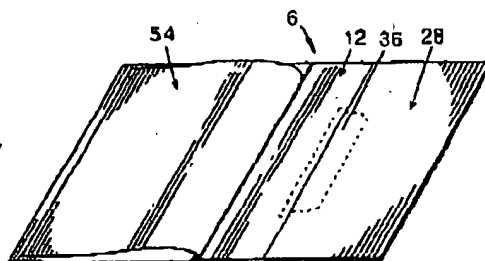


Fig. 6a



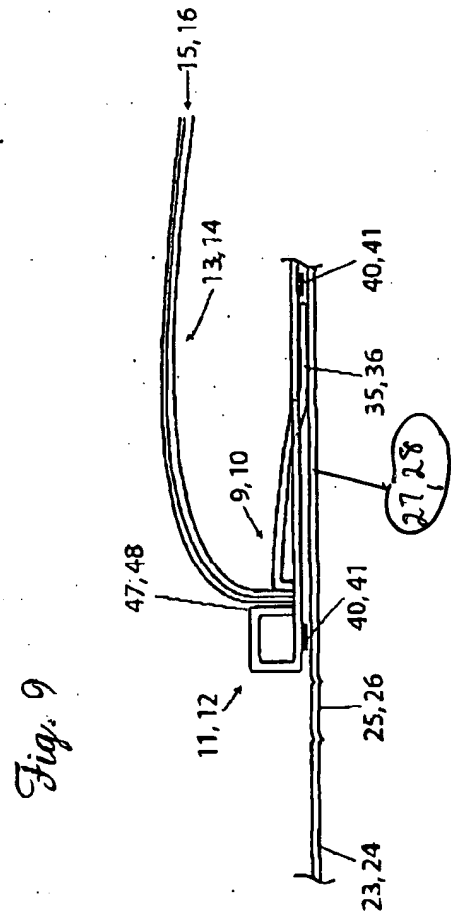
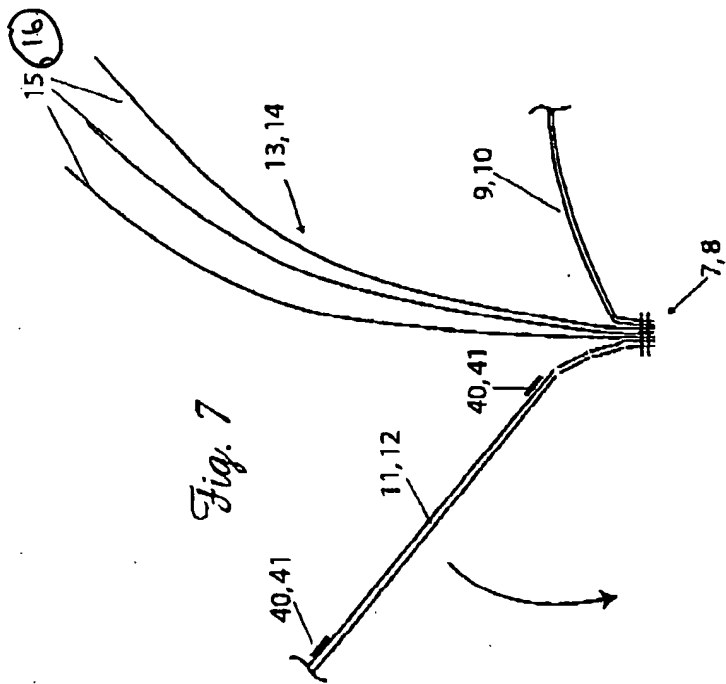
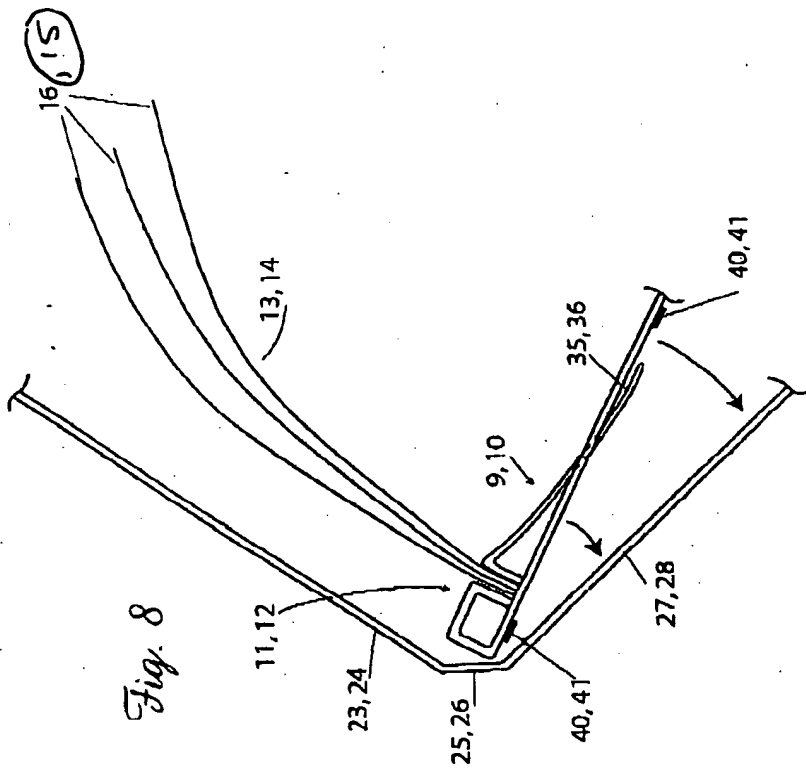


Fig. 10

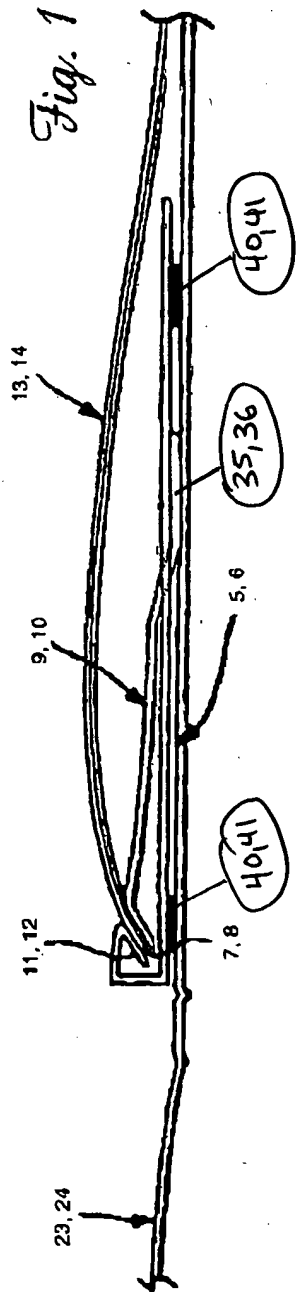
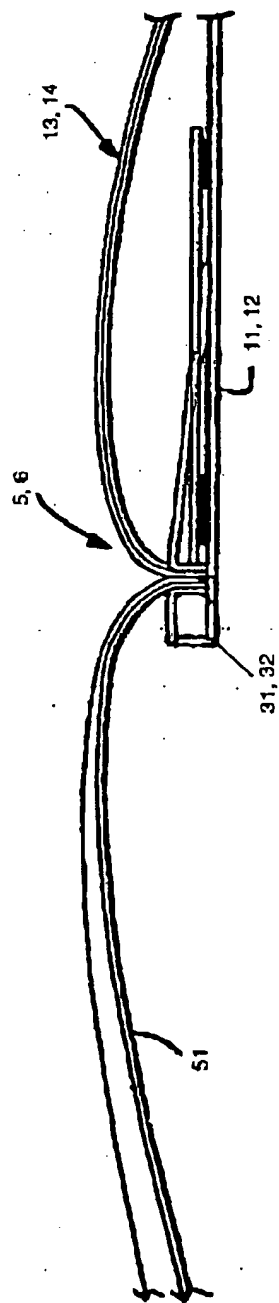


Fig. 11



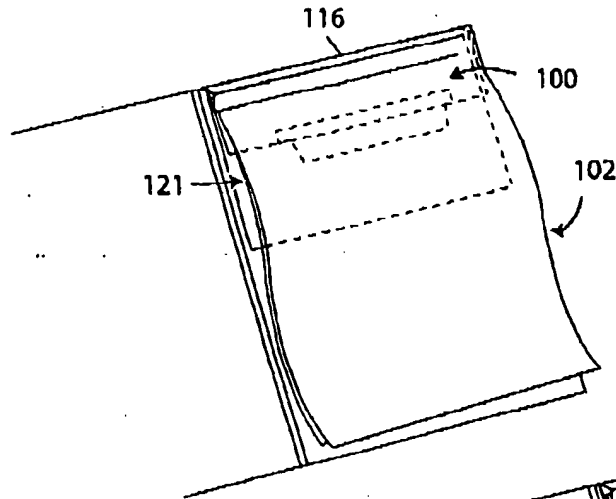


FIGURE 13

FIGURE 13A

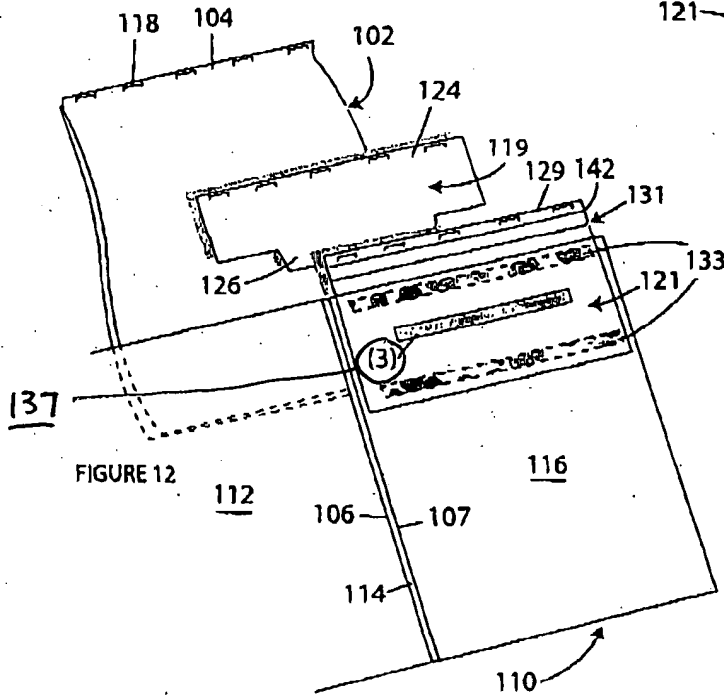
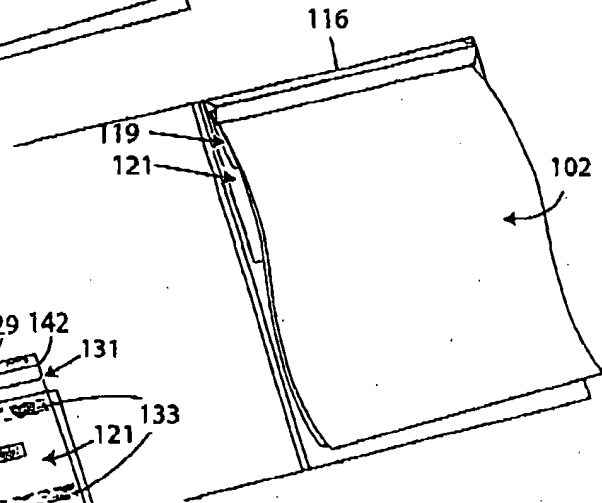


FIGURE 12

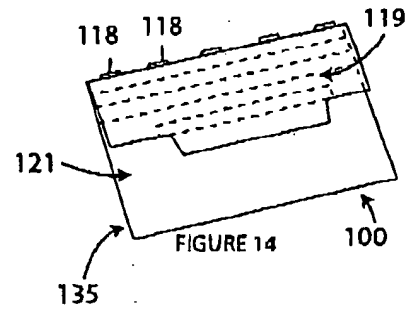


FIGURE 14

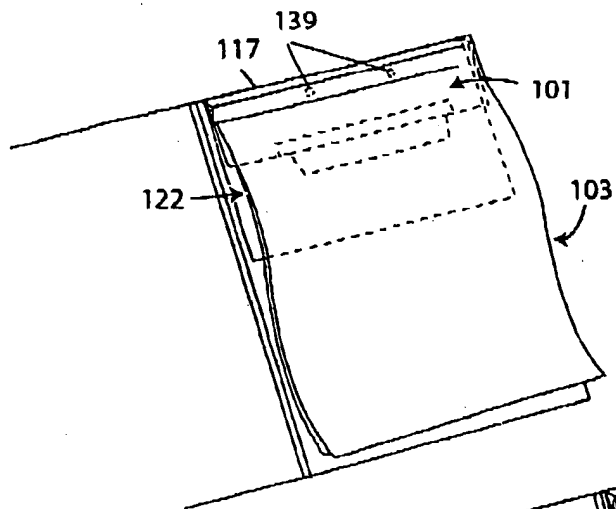


FIGURE 16

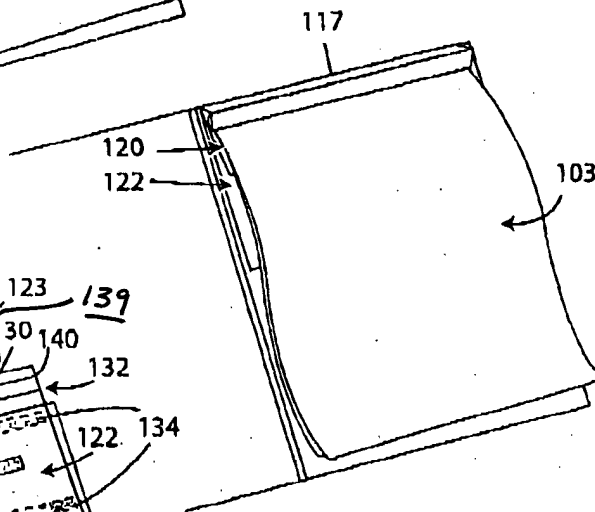


FIGURE 16A

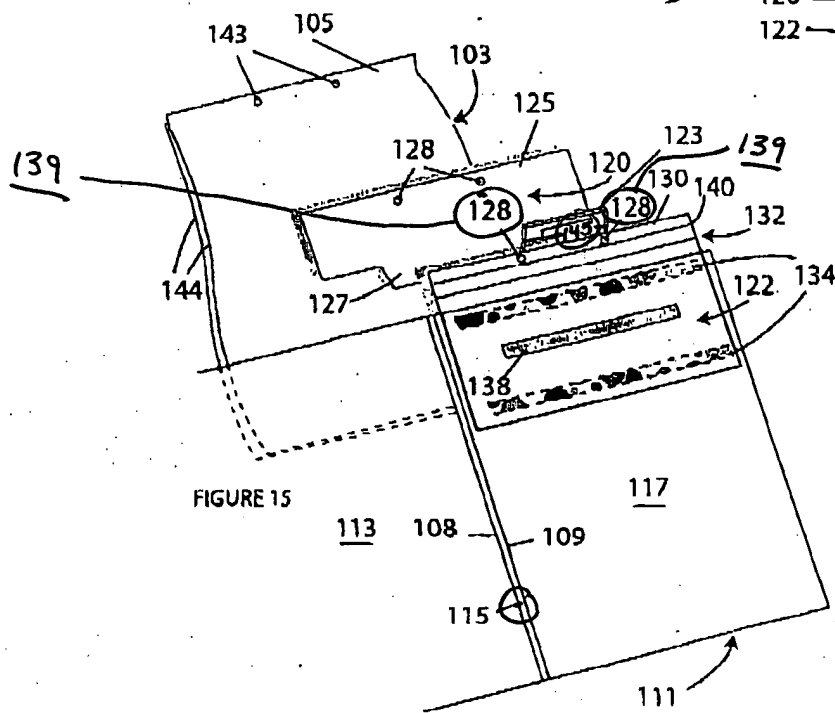


FIGURE 15

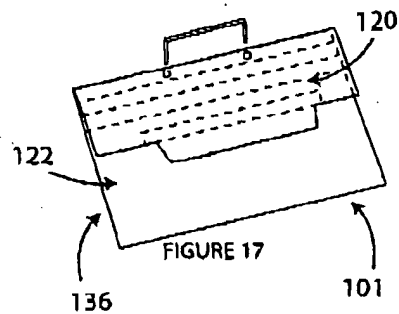


FIGURE 17

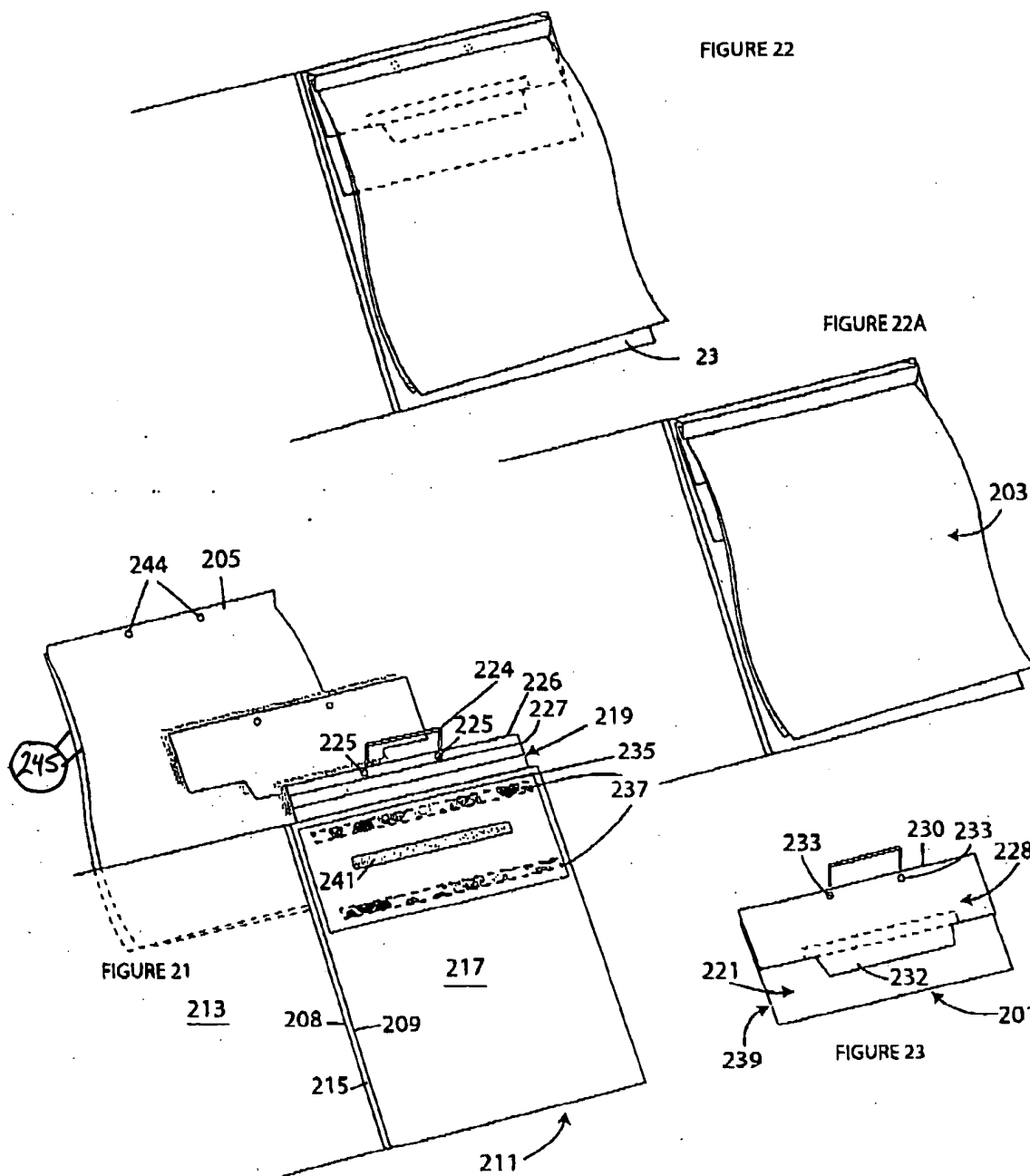


Fig. 30

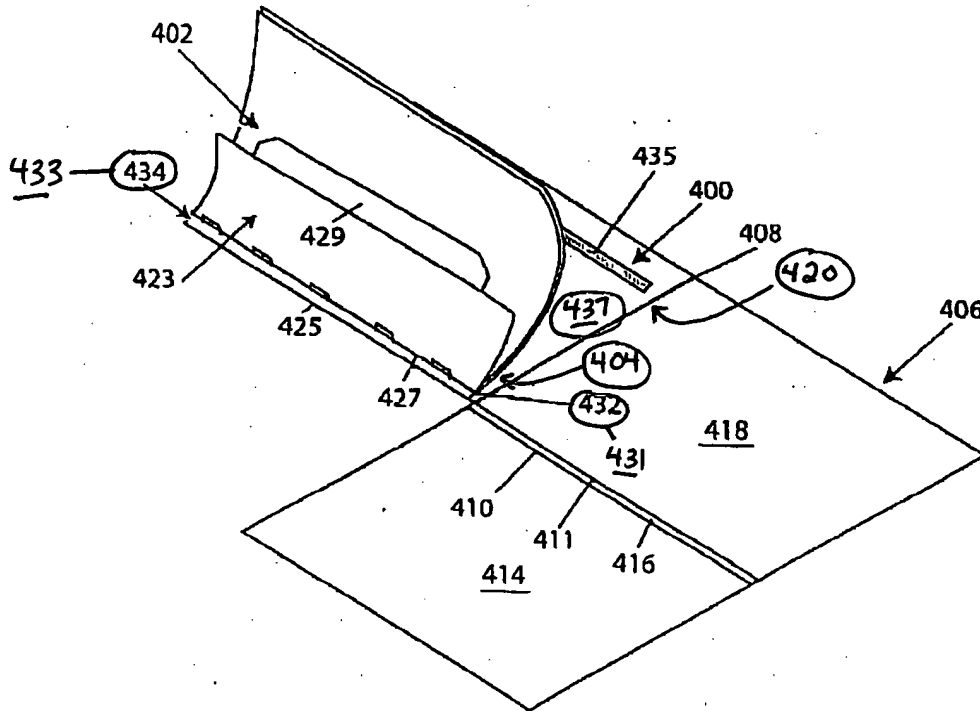
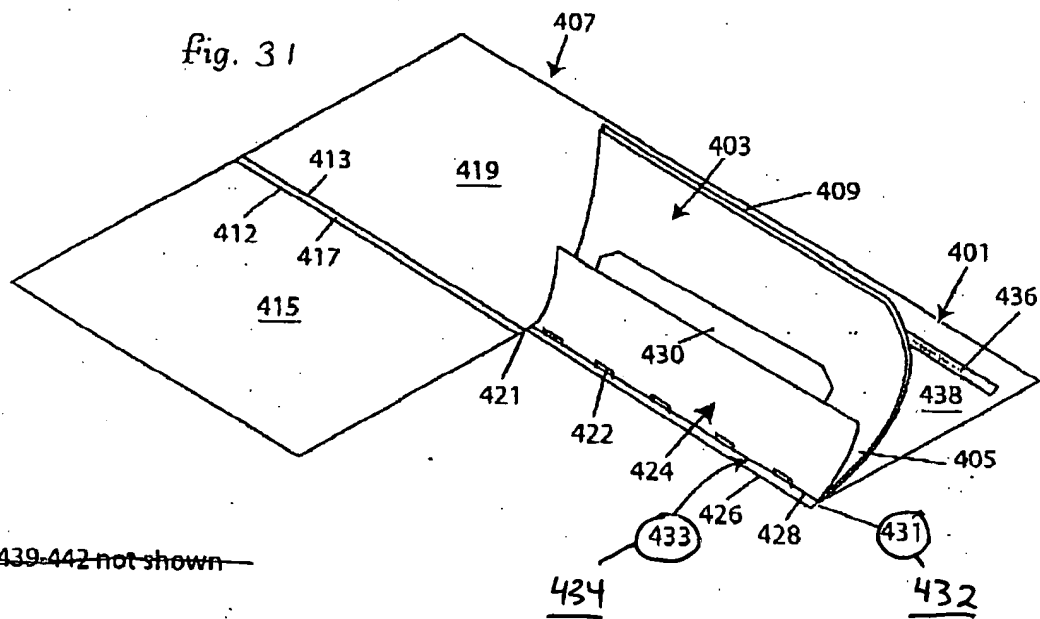


Fig. 31



~~439-442 not shown~~